



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**

**SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 15, 2017**

I am Amanda Boudreault, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in **opposition to SB 415 by Senator Perry relating to abortion** and to speak to you today.

Women's health and access to comprehensive reproductive health services, including safe, legal abortions, are priority issues for the League and its members around the state. Our position on this issue, like other League positions, is derived through a lengthy and thoughtful process involving the participation of 24 local leagues representing more than 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state of Texas.

This proposed bill would impose unnecessary prohibitions and requirements on women seeking abortions and their physicians.

SB 415 prohibits an abortion procedure known as "dilation and extraction" in the medical profession but described by those who want to prevent it as "dismemberment abortion." It is a rarely used procedure that is sometimes performed in the 2nd trimester when medically advisable to protect the life and health of the woman. Writing this prohibition into law unnecessarily limits the options and decisions for women seeking safe and legal abortions.

The League again thanks this Committee for the opportunity to express our views and to speak out for women's reproductive health and rights.

For additional information, please contact: Julie Lowenberg (jmlowenberg@sbcglobe.net; 214-352-4667).

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) is a nonpartisan citizens' organization that has fought since 1919 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. It represents more than 5,000 members and supporters throughout Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The member-driven organization of women and men encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy of positions based on extensive issue study and consensus.